



# American Review of Eastern Orthodoxy

**MONTHLY**



**NEWS**

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## FEATURE STORY

### U.S. CHURCHMEN TO VISIT RUSSIA

On March 9th, a delegation of Protestant clergy and laymen left New York City on a ten day trip to Soviet Russia.

Headed by Dr. Eugene C. Blake, who is President of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, the delegation included **six** other clergy and two laymen, one of whom, Dr. Paul B. Anderson, is a well-known writer on **EASTERN ORTHODOX** affairs.

The expressed intent and purpose of the delegation was stated: 'to reopen channels of ecclesiastical communication, which has been nonexistent since 1919'. Dr. Blake added = 'I cannot say what effect the establishment of closer relations between Christians in the two countries will have in improving relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. We believe that improved relations between nations require a frank and honest recognition of the differences that prevail between them'.

Assurance was given, however, that the delegation 'will represent vigorously our convictions on the moral issues underlying the tensions prevailing in the world today. We, therefore, we cannot be sure that agreement can or should be reached at any points, we do hope that under guidance of Almighty God this exchange of visits will contribute toward a larger measure of

understanding and goodwill'.

Dr. Blake said it was the hope of the delegation that the conversations with the Russian Church leaders may embrace many subjects of mutual interest. As conceived by the U.S. Churchmen, these topics would include what the churches of the two countries have done and are doing to promote world peace, as well as the following points =

- i. The freedom of the churches to fulfill their mission.
- ii. The Christian Faith and other religions.
- iii. The current trends in theological education.
- iv. Christian literature.
- v. Relations between churches in the U.S. & in the Soviet.

The delegation stated it did not expect to go anywhere except Moscow, but hoped to establish contact with Churches throughout the Soviet orbit, thru the Russian Orthodox Patriarchate, and thru such representatives of other churches as may be in Moscow.

It was further stressed that it is not in the mind of the delegation to enter into any sort of political consultations; this being a strict church-to-church visit.

On being asked why there were no American Eastern Orthodox representatives included in the delegation, Dr. Barnes, who is

(Continued on page 2)

a member of the group, replied: 'There is controversy between Russian Orthodox groups in this country, regarding the recognition of the Moscow Patriarchate. The tensions are mainly based on the question as to whether the Patriarchate is a free agent. And our delegation disavows competence to deal with ecclesiastical relations between churches in this country and behind the 'Iron Curtain'. Dr. Blake added that when the General Board of the National Council approved the trip last October, that a member of the Russian Orthodox Church of North America (Leonty) abstained from voting. His name was Ralph M. Arkush, a New York attorney, who is the National Council's recording secretary. He also abstained from a resolution, which read, in part = 'that the God of Righteousness will lead the people of the U.S. and the Soviet Union into the path of peace'.

This will be the 11th church group from the West to have entered the Soviet Union in the past two years. In this same period, the Russian church leaders have made visits to three West European countries (Great Britain, Sweden, West Germany) and to Canada.

# NOTICE TO READERS -

American Review of Eastern Orthodoxy is published as a Monthly News Review. Readers are invited to send in such local or other news as they may wish. Wherever space permits, these will be used.

The publishers are commencing the AREO QUARTERLY. It will be published in a Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall series. The first issue will be released in the Winter of 1956. The subject matter will deal with articles on history, tradition, state of the Church, doctrine, dogma and many other phases of religion. Subscription prices to this Quarterly will be \$2.00 per year (50¢ additional for subscriptions outside U.S.A.)

NOTE: A combined subscription price for both the American Review of Eastern Orthodoxy (a monthly) and the AREO Quarterly is available at \$4.25 per year (\$1.50 additional for subscriptions outside U.S.A.)

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## CALENDAR

- MARCH, 1956  
4th - Sunday of Prodigal  
11th - Meat Fast Sunday  
18th - Cheese Fast Sunday  
25th- 1st Sunday of Great Fast, known as the Sunday of Orthodoxy (in 1956, also falls Feast of Annunciation)

The FAST Period= The exact period of the Great Fast is exactly forty days from the Monday after the Cheese Fast Sunday to the Friday evening preceding Lazarus Saturday. The last week, however, which is called Passion Week, is a special Fast to honor the Passion of our Lord and God Jesus Christ.

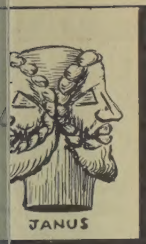
EASTER, 1956 (by Orthodox custom) falls always after Hebrew Passover, and thus it comes on the 6th of May.



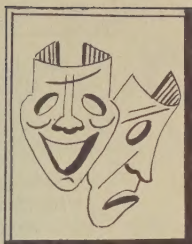
Back up your opinions with facts



## TRUTH and RELIGION



When men in high positions, men of authority, take upon themselves to make statements, which they know are without foundation, they are endangering the entire system of society and the truths on which it is founded.



A growing contempt for truth presents one of the most dangerous states in the modern day world. If when a people become offhand and casual, in regard to truth and lies, society is truly in danger. For, the pursuit of, and loyalty to, truth is the foundation of every free and democratic society and is most certainly the foundation of religion.

Today, we hardly know what to accept as being true and what might be lies or perhaps propaganda. The end result is that the individual tends to become either a cynic or he withdraws into a narrow, protected field, in which he cannot be reached. The result of this, of course, is that he tends to break down the social relation he has with others and thus disintegrate the entire moral, and even physical, structure.

Throughout history, different cultures have developed different ideas of what is Truth. Some people say Truth is always relative and therefore without foundation. In turn, denies that there can be anything which is eternal Truth. If we accept this, we destroy one of the greatest principles that causes men to do good. For, we deny the reality of God Himself, Which is the underlying and eternal Truth.

On the other hand, if one pulls away from the world and closes himself off to the world and only lives in his own concepts of Truth, without comparing them to reality (extreme monasticism), he develops a totalitarian state within himself and frustrates Truth, by inhibiting and qualifying it. He thus becomes a destroyer of the very Truth, which he is not only seeking, but which he is trying to perpetuate.

Naturally, there is a middle path between these two extremes. This path is that of the open mind, the careful mind, the painstaking mind, the reasonable mind, and the religious mind. Pontius Pilate asked: 'What is Truth'? \* The Bible states that God is 'God of Truth' \*\*, who 'keepeth Truth forever' \*\*\*. Truth, then, is a quality of God, which He gives to men to grasp. It varies in its content, from era to era, but, basically, remains sound and true to the concept of His Being, which is Goodness - Beauty - Truth - and Love. No man can know these attributes in their completeness, but only in part - hence, they must learn thru time and experience. The Bible says:..... 'tribulation maketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, and hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts'. \*\*\*\*

If one holds to these precepts, then can he find growth of Truth, because he grows into God, Which is Truth, and his pursuit of God becomes pursuit of Truth. If he is loyal to God and His Teachings, he automatically becomes loyal to Truth, regardless of where it takes him. So, by this means, the middle path becomes the ground for reconciling the other two paths, mentioned previously: the paths of the cynic, or that of the one who destroys and gives up the struggle.

Coming this far, we now realize that following God is the ultimate growth of man; it becomes the purpose of life, that is, if one wishes to strive after Truth. The earnest follower-after-God, as we may now call him, also is forced to now realize that there must, perforce, be different ways to follow God - none of which must necessarily be bound to be the same. And while the 'follower-after-God' may find a particular reason to follow, he realizes that all other religions may NOT be equally good in his eyes, but that nevertheless, he knows only IN PART, and that therefore there IS a Truth greater than the Truths, which he may so far have found. Knowing this, he then becomes understanding and tolerant to the beliefs of others. This tolerance does not include contempt for the beliefs of others, however; nor does it include indifference to them or their views, but, rather, a disposition to be fair towards both their beliefs and towards them as individuals.

Dr. Ira de A Reid, sociologist of Haverford College, speaking before the National Conference on Churches and Social Welfare, at Cleveland, Ohio, declared: Protestantism in this country is more concerned with the 'safe and secure' segments of humanity than the 'suffering and submerged'.

Rev. John Paul Jones spoke, in Brooklyn, at a Reformation Day gathering, with these words: 'Let the Roman Catholics be humble enough to admit what their own scholars acknowledge - the general apathy, incompetence, ignorance, and considerable downright corruption that plagued the church in the era (i.e.-Reformation Era - E) 'Let the Protestants humbly admit the excesses, misguided zeal and glaring imperfections of some of the Reformation leaders.....But there are wide areas where we can work together, these be increased, and let there be fellowship between us all.'

Dr. Leonard W. Mayo, chairman and keynote speaker of the National Council of Churches first nation-wide conference on churches and social welfare, declared: The need to defend free speech is the first of three principles essential to freedom of worship and enterprise. The second fundamental being the need to speak out 'with courage and clarity' on current social issues 'that go to the heart of our religious convictions and the roots of human needs'. The third, and last, point was: 'To become acquainted with welfare programs, and to take an active part on policy making, discussions of current issues and interpreting social welfare needs of the community'.

Dr. Roswell P. Barnes, of New York, stated: 'In these times of crisis...we need to dig down to the convictions underlying our attitudes'....'Only theology has the comprehensive approach needed to develop a sound philosophy and program of social welfare which takes into account the individual's environment, inner tensions, economics, inhibitions, intergroup conflicts and personal sin'.

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, president of the National Council of Churches, said: 'the liberation of men from the bondage of poverty, disease, selfishness, hatred and material values' was the GOAL of the churches. And the business of the Christian Church is and always has been: 'the founding of hospitals, encouragement of philanthropy, conversion of selfishness, experimentation with new political and economic systems designed for greater freedom and more equal prosperity'.

Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, of the National Council of Churches, stated: 'Society has a right to expect more of Christians than a gospel of melancholy. So devastating has been this theology of man's weakness in the presence of evil, that many pastors....are themselves lost in a wilderness of confusion and self-pity'. Dr. Van Kirk mentioned how, that at the appearance of a few newspaper scare headlines, Christians 'fall prostrate before their wailing walls, utterly broken in spirit and morally paralyzed.....running in circles, preaching doom and predicting the end of our civilization. It may be that Christians will again be driven into the catacombs'. He further suggested that one reason why Communism and not Christianity was in the headlines so much, was because Christians, in their preoccupation with absolute values, had given scant attention to the concerns of the average 'Main Street'. 'Men must eat', he said. 'They must be clothed. They must be sheltered....Golden streets, jasper walls and angelic choirs have little meaning for those who walk the ways of the world in poverty and deprivation.'

Dr. Eugene A. Nida, of the American Bible Society, said: 'Too often we confuse the Kingdom of God with the structures of our own society'....'As Christian missions, we should remind ourselves that we are only servants of the cross and not the masters of people'. said Rev. M.A. Thomas of India. 'The great need of this generation is a succession of inspired prophets to stand in our pulpits, preaching the Christian gospel in a way which will enlighten the intellect, quicken the imagination, stir the conscience and reinforce the will' was the opinion of Bishop A.J. Moore, Methodist, Thirty Episcopal Cathedral deans issued their statement 'As God reveals the secrets and power of His creation, man's moral responsibility for the use of that power increases'.



## AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE CHURCH

### GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS:

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Archbishop Zareh Payaslian of Aleppo, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church in North Syria, was elected Catholicos of Cilicia in an election held in nearby Antelias. He will have jurisdiction over Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus.

The new Catholicos succeeds the late Archbishop Garegin Hovsepien, died in July of 1952.

The Armenian Church has been split since the 15th century into two patriarchates (Catholicos), one at Echmiadzin (Soviet Armenia) and the other in Cilicia in Turkey. Neither Catholicos is subordinate to the other, but the one at Echmiadzin is reputed to have more prestige in church circles; it also has perhaps five times as many communicants, about 1,250,000 all told.

Catholicos Vazken I (Baldjian), who was elected supreme head of the Armenian Church last October, and has his Seat at Echmiadzin, arrived for the election on his way to Jerusalem, where he was to preside at a congress of Armenian Orthodox Bishops. Unfortunately, others of the Electoral Council felt he was endeavoring to impose his will on others outside his Catholicate, which they feel is controlled by the Soviet government. This led to considerable friction and Vazken withdrew before the election was concluded and left Jerusalem, by the way of Cairo. Vazken denied that he had any motives, other than those of building harmony, and stated his main purpose was the Jerusalem meeting, at which the future of the Armenian Church on both sides of the iron curtain would be discussed. It is interesting to note that Vazken is the first head of the Armenian Church who has been permitted to travel outside the Soviet since 1918. It is also the first time in 400 years that the Catholicos of Echmiadzin has been present at an election of a Catholicos of Cilicia.

Two American prelates, Archbishop Mampre Calfayan of N.Y. and also Bishop Shnork Kaloustian of California, were present at the election; they having flown there from New York on last February 14th.

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BEIRUT, Lebanon - Patriarch Alexei of Moscow sent the Arab Orthodox Community here in Lebanon a three-ton bell, which is reputed to be more than 120 years old. It will hang in the belfry of S.S. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in the Beirut suburb of Hazmieh, on the height which overlooks the busy Damascus-Beirut superhighway. Archimandrite Melchisedech Samaha, representative in Moscow of the Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Patriarch Alexander III, accompanied the gift to Lebanon.

AREO reported on a similar gift by the Moscow Patriarchate to another Patriarchate, that of Alexandria, Egypt - this 9 ton bell, along with \$15,000 for the Patriarch Christopher II of Alexandria, was the apparent result of his visit to Moscow some time back.

It has an ominous ring. - ED.

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BELGRADE - Serbian Orthodox Bishop Vladimir Rajic of Razka-Prizren died of a heart attack in his home in Prizren, southwest Serbia at the age of 74. A graduate of Moscow theological academy, he was the Serbian Church's greatest authority on Russia. He translated many works of Anton Chekov and other Russian writers into Serbian. Mesnik (Herald), semi-monthly paper of the Ass'n. of Orthodox Priests of Yugoslavia gave attention that deaths and retirements of Serbian clergy were far out-running new appointees. In 1955, the Church had 2301 clergy and monks - with 30 new priests and 107 retired or dead; in 1955 25 new monks and only 16 nuns added to the rolls. - ED.

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ATHENS - According to recent reports, 25 Old Calendar churches in Greece have re-opened. This group broke away from the official Orthodox Church of Greece more than 30 years ago. (over)



They adhere to the Julian Calendar, as opposed to the Gregorian Calendar, which is almost universally used today in all church bodies. The official Orthodox Church immediately filed a protest with the Ministry of Cults against this move. They charged it violated a government ban against the Old Calendar Sect.

● 'And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God'. (Acts 5:38-39) - ED.

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OSLO, Norway - Metropolitan Nikolai of Krutitsky and Kolomna, 2nd ranking prelate of the Moscow Patriarchate arrived here Feb. 20th for a six day visit. He will be guest of the Rev. Ragnar Forbech, assistant pastor of the (State Lutheran) Church of Norway's Cathedral; the Rev. Forbech was the 1955 winner of the Stalin Peace Prize. Questions over the political implications of the visit were rampant.

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JERUSALEM - The election for a successor to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchal Seat has been indefinitely postponed. Originally scheduled for February 22, the Jordanian officials state that there is too great tension between higher and lower clergy to allow an election at this time. The tensions exist over whether the post go to an Arab or a Greek. A similar controversy was carried on for over three years in the early 1030's before being settled with the election of the late Patriarch Timotheos (Themelis).

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JERUSALEM, Israel - Two stories concerning Judaism in Israel =

The World Academy here will begin printing this year a new and revised edition of the ancient Talmud, the first in 76 years. It will be in 30 volumes, of 600 large folio pages each. The literature in the Talmud embodies Jewish moral and spiritual teachings, which are based on the Torah (five books of Moses) and embrace a period of writings accumulated over 1,000 years.

The Israeli government modified an order, which would have barred further excavations at the site of a recently-discovered ancient Jewish tomb in Jerusalem's New City. The Orthodox Rabbinate had demanded the work be halted on grounds that excavation of a Jewish burial place is a profanation of the dead. Archaeologists warned that it set a precedent, which might stop exploration of other tombs or sites, in the future. The government worked out a compromise between the two parties and work will be continued, although any bones found will be left intact. Discoveries so far have revealed that a Jewish Navy used by the Maccabees had existed along the coast.

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BONN, Germany - Negotiation of a formal Church-State agreement on Military Chaplains is under way. Under an informal agreement with officials of the government and of the Protestant and Catholic Churches, pastoral care for soldiers will be completely civilian in character and remain entirely in the hands of the churches. Clergymen assigned to the chaplaincy will not wear uniforms or insignia of rank.

● Many leaders have felt all clergy should never assume the garb of a soldier, but to serve only in the garb of their calling. - ED.

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BERLIN - A.D.N., Soviet-German News Agency, reported the completion of restoration of Wartburg Castle, near Eisenach. This was where Martin Luther found refuge after the Diet of Worms, and where he translated the New Testament into colloquial German.

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AALBORG, Denmark - Miss Helga Jensen was ordained a minister of the Danish State Lutheran Church, by Bishop Erik Jensen. She is the fourth woman ordained since 1948, when the parliament passed legislation authorizing it.

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## ESTIC :

**BRUNSWICK, N.J.** - In September, 1955, AREO reported the formation of an Orthodox committee under the chairmanship of Father George Gallas of St. George Greek Church here. The purpose of the committee was to organize uniform standards for a religious award for Boys, who have Eastern Orthodox background.

In a letter, dated January 13th, 1956, the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America conveyed its recognition of the Eastern Orthodox Church as a separate Christian group entitled to the same privileges as the other major religious groups in the U.S. In accord with this, it approved a religious award, known as the Alpha Omega Award, for Boy Scouts and Explorers, who are members of the Eastern Orthodox Church on all grounds that this is a major division of Christendom, unique and independent. It was further provided that the hierarchs of the Church are to appoint a committee on Scouting to oversee this function.

In a letter, dated January 30th, 1956, Archbishop Iakovos stated: 'As spiritual head of the Greek Orthodox Church in North America, I do hereby call upon all parishes to consider the feasibility of establishing Boy Scout troops in their respective communities and adopt the Scouting program.'



Other bodies active in Scouting are the Carpatho-Russian; the Syrian Antiochian; and the Russian Orthodox Archdiocese (American body). The independent American Eastern Orthodox Cathedral of Our Saviour in N.Y.C. has long been active in Scouting and has a very aggressive troop - known as the troop which does 'more camping activity than any troop in New York'.

**PHILADELPHIA, Pa.** - Fourteen boys of the American Carpatho-Russian Church became the first recipients of the Alpha-Omega Award at a ceremony here. Bishop Orestes P. Chornock made the presentations.

This is indeed a step forward in the Americanization of the Orthodox Church - ED.

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**PRINCETON, N.J.** - A Liturgy, in English, was celebrated here at the Princeton Theological Seminary by Rev. Dr. C.A. Abraham, president of Serampore College in India. He is a clergyman of the Mar Thomas Church, founded in southwest India by St. Thomas around 52 A.D. The church is reported to have a membership there of some 200,000 Indians.

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**PON SPRINGS, Fla.** - Rev. Father C.J. Raptis led the World Day of Prayer Service here at St. Nicholas Greek Church at 3 P.M., February 17th. Participating with him were the Rev's. from (Universalist), Elliott (Presbyterian), Rice (Methodist), Robinson (Episcopal), Gauss (Methodist). Singing of hymns was led by Mrs. Paul Arfaras. The service was in a proper spirit of cooperation among Christian bodies. - ED.

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**DETROIT, Mich.** - It has been reported that Bishop Emrich, diocesan head of the Protestant Episcopal Church here, has taken a very active interest in relations between the Episcopal, Eastern Orthodox and Polish National Catholic Church in the Detroit area. Last December there was a celebration of the Liturgy according to the Armenian tradition in St. John's Armenian Church. Similar events have also been held in the Russian Orthodox Churches of St. Peter and St. Paul, as well as at St. Martha's Church. On February 7th and 8th the Parishfield Community was host to an informal gathering of Episcopal, Orthodox and Polish National Catholic clergy and their wives. As Canon McClintock stated: 'The purpose...is to break down the lines of partition that exist needlessly today. These are fellow churches in Christ, with whom we ought to develop our inter-communion ties and our common loyalty.'

Quite true - ED.

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**NEW YORK** - A great ecumenical service of Protestant and Orthodox Churches was held on Feb. 4th at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Massed choirs from the respective bodies provided music in the service. One of the high spots was the rendering of the Lords Prayer in eight different languages to symbolize the unity of Christ all over the world. Amen. - ED.

NEW YORK - A Mi-Careme (middle of Russian Lent) supper dance is being given March 11 by the Ass'n. of former Imperial Russian Cavalry and Horse Artillery. The ball is under the patronage of Grand Duchess Olga of Russia, sister of the later Czar. Proceeds will benefit Russian invalids of World War I in this country.

April 6th, 1956 has been set for the date of trial between the Patriarchal Russian Church and the Russian Orthodox Church in America (Leonty) for control of the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas on 97th Street, N.Y.C.

Rev. Zacharia Nasr is visiting the U.S. from Taybeh village in Jordan. He is seeking funds to complete a primary and secondary school in that area. He carries with him the letters of recommendation of Archbishop Athenagoras of Sabastias; the commendation of Archbishop Michael, Metropolitan Leonty, Archbishop John of Brussels, and of Archimandrite Demetrios of Jerusalem. In this country he has been the guest of various jurisdictions, among them that of The Ukrainian Orthodox Church - The Rev. Father George Owen of that jurisdiction has escorted him on occasion.

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SOMERVILLE, Mass. - Rev. Stephen J. Anthony of Assumption Greek Church announced that the remaining 15 of 22 stained glass windows, depicting scenes from the Life of Our Lord, were installed in the Church. The windows were designed by Mr. Christopher Kantianis, who is the Greek Orthodox Church Architect from Springfield, Mass., and they were sketched by the noted Church Iconographer, Mr. Sofronios Afentakis of Belmont. The windows were constructed abroad at the world-renowned Studios of Guido Polloni in Florence, Italy at a cost of about \$13,500. Bishop Athenagoras of the New England Diocese dedicated them on Sunday, March 4th, 1956. After the dedication, each of the windows was unveiled by the particular deacon.

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MILWAUKEE, Wis. - The 3rd Annual Pan-Orthodox Youth Conference was held Saturday March 3rd at the Hotel Pfister. It was sponsored by the Orthodox Churches of Wisconsin of the Greek, Serbian, Russian and Ukrainian jurisdictions.

● The more Orthodox Youth is able to mingle, the sooner it will become more American in its activities and work. - ED.

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CLEARWATER, Fla. - A new Hellenic Center is being erected here, with 4,000 square feet of facilities. The cost of the project will run close to \$75,000, but it will accommodate about 250 people. The purpose, of course, is to promote, develop and encourage educational, religious, cultural, social and recreational facilities for Greek-Americans and their friends. Both AHEC and Daughters of Penelope will utilize the facilities.

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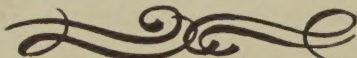
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. - A new Hellenic Center was recently built here at a cost of \$85,000. It is anticipated that this Easter will be as big a success as last year, when Father Cassis of Baltimore celebrated the Liturgy on a portable altar, with several Greek soldiers from Fort Bragg and some of the youth of the community composing the choir. As the community grows, it is anticipated that a Church will be organized for year-round services.

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. - Rhode Island's Eastern Orthodox churches are again seeking official recognition from the State Legislature as a major Faith. Last year, a similar resolution died in committee.


● Rhode Island Orthodox may have good fortune thru persistent effort. AREO suggests that a similar effort be made to have the U.S.O. (United Services Organization) include E.O. in their publicity. This Editor directed a communication to them along this line and was not accorded the courtesy of even a reply. Perhaps others may succeed. - ED.

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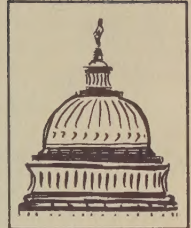




## CHURCH and STATE



**JERUSALEM** - Premier David Ben Gurion announced in the Knesset (Parliament) that the government is setting up a special committee to investigate missionary activities in Israel. He said the question is a complicated one, because this is a Holy Land to several religions and missionary activities have social and educational aspects, as well as religious.



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**NEW DELHI, India** - An official spokesman of the government told Parliament, here, that restrictions applicable to religious missionaries do not apply to any from British Commonwealth countries. For those coming from other countries, however, the restrictions call for each missionary to possess outstanding qualifications or specialized experience in the fields of education, public health or social work. All of which fields are in bad need of development in India - ED.

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**BUDAPEST** - A budget of \$5,500,000 for 1956 in Church subsidies, including Jewish community, was approved here. The Government Office for Church Affairs has charge of distribution of these funds, allocating them in accordance with the numerical membership of each group. American Protestants and EASTERN ORTHODOX gave their respective churches over \$87,000,000 in 1955. - ED.

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**REYKJAVIK, Iceland** - Three postage stamps, marking the 900th anniversary of the summer of the consecration in 1056 of Isleifur Gissurarson as first native Icelandic bishop, will be issued by Iceland. This will provide funds to restore the ancient Lutheran cathedral at Skalholt(Iceland) which was the first episcopal residence and formerly the main cultural center of Iceland.

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**ROME** - The bulletin of the Russian Pontifical College here, stated that the anti-religious efforts in the Soviet have been stepped up in recent months. 'The Anti-religious Museum in Leningrad has been reorganized with branches, capable of training a minimum of 300 atheistic activists, being established in every province....since Russia has some 2 provinces, this would mean some 66,000 specialists in anti-religious propaganda are to be trained, or about one to every 3,000 Russians.' It is quite apparent that Soviet policy has pursued a course to extinguish religious faith. Karl Marx wrote: 'It is not religion that creates man, but man who creates religion'. It has been reported that there are only 50 openings each year in ecclesiastical schools for the Orthodox priests. Other clergy have also been similarly effected and, according to reports, only one Moslem seminary exists in all Soviet Central Asia. Church organizations are also used for propaganda purposes and are summoned to endorse state political decisions. - ED.

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**BERLIN** - Johannes Dieckmann, president of the East German People's Chamber (Parliament), warned Soviet Zone Churches that State aids would be withdrawn unless they cease their resistance to the Communist regime. He said: 'no State can watch inactively while war is declared upon it every Sunday from many pulpits'. This seems to verify the item just preceding this. - ED.

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**SINGAPORE** - The withdrawal by the government of its request to the legislature to establish a State lottery has been hailed here as a 'victory for common sense'. A United Christian (Protestant) move had fought the action. Their main point was: by resorting to lottery, the government 'shows a weakness in its fabric and is admitting it is unable to finance social welfare services by normal and just means of taxation.' Well said. - ED.

## CHURCH and the COURTS



What Is A Church ?

by Leo Wiener, Esq.

(Member of the Bar, State of New York)

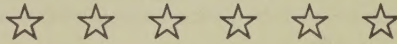
Our State and Federal Constitutions distinctly separate the Church and the State. Dartmouth College received a charter to enable them in authority to instruct the Indians in the Christian Religion and to educate the people. In Europe and England, we find that Church bodies and structures are subsidized and controlled to a degree by the State; even to the place where they have been disestablished and properties appropriated. These actions, there, have always been upheld by their Courts on the fundamental basis that the rights and property of Churches is government.

In the United States of America, however, the situation is reversed here, we find, the Courts are instructed by Legislation and Statute as to what jurisdiction they may exercise over Churches.

What is a Church? A Church is not an edifice, a building, or a place of worship. In its truest sense, a Church is 'the people'. The Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York defines a Church as 'a congregation, society, or other assemblage of persons, who are accustomed to stately meet for Divine Worship or other religious observances,.....'.

A Church is a voluntary association of persons, and in this association there is power to adopt rules for admission and discipline, and to administer them free of control by the Courts, as long as there is no intention to harm the members belonging to it (People vs. United, etc. Church, 53 N.Y. 103)

So strong is the spiritual aspect of the Church that the government and the Courts will not interfere with the spiritual officers concerning questions of faith, doctrine or discipline.



### FOREIGN =

DUBLIN, Ireland - The Irish High Court held recently that a father has the 'right and duty to decide the education of his child, both religious and secular'. The decision was over the case of a Limerick lawyer and his French wife - the husband being an Anglican and the wife a Catholic.

\* \* \* \* \*

MUNICH, Germany - A district court here ruled that a movie theater may refuse to show a picture, even though under contract to do so, if that film has been condemned by Church authorities. The Roman Catholic Church had rated 'Casanova - His Loves and Adventures' as 'detrimental to faith and morals'.

\* \* \* \* \*

PASSAU, Germany - Two Roman Catholic priests were fined 100 marks each for performing a marriage in violation of the law. They conferred a Church marriage prior to civil rites, in disobedience to the Marriage Law of 1933, referred to as the German-Vatican Concordat. The priest had stated: 'I think one should....simply ignore the State and conclude the marriage without a civil rite'.

● Tsk. Tsk. - ED.

\* \* \* \* \*

### DOMESTIC =

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Tax Court ruled that money prizes won at Church raffles are taxable income. The defendant had pleaded that, since the prize of \$750 had been awarded by a charitable and religious organization, that it was not taxable income. The Court stated that the fact that a consideration had been paid for the 'chance', it was a lottery.



LEDO, Ohio - The Lutheran Book Shop here must pay personal property taxes on its inventory of books and supplies. Even though its profits go to the Lutheran Welfare Service, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the Book Shop was 'competing directly with other businesses' and therefore subject to tax.

What is sauce for the goose, is sauce for the gander. - ED.

\* \* \* \* \*

BANY, N.Y. - The Court of Appeals ruled that it is 'a fraud upon the public' to solicit funds for a Church or charity, if most of the money is kept by the solicitor. In a unanimous decision, five Brooklyn women, who masqueraded in religious garb, were ordered retried. They had been turning over only a small percentage of their collections and keeping the rest for their livelihood. The Court opinion stated: 'It may well be that there would have been no crime if all of their collections had been delivered to the pastor for the use of the Church.....but the main object of this solicitation was the defendant's own emolument'. The decision continued: 'They were in business for themselves.....for their own financial gain... of this adds up to a fraud upon the public'.

\* \* \* \* \*

LEE Over MELISH =

W YORK - The difficult battle centering around the controversial Rev. Dr. W.H.Melish, continues on in Brooklyn, N.Y. While a preponderant majority of the immediate congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Holy Trinity in Brooklyn Heights remain loyal to the Melishes, father and son, the vestry (ruling body of trustees) has an 8 to 3 majority against Rev. Melish remaining as Minister of that Church. The dispute has been of many years standing and apparently centers around contentions that the younger Rev. Melish has been a member of organizations which have been listed as 'subversive' by the Attorney General.

Meanwhile, a bill was introduced into the N.Y. Legislature to amend the Religious Corporations Law, in relation to P.E. Churches. Feeling this to be an unfortunate way in which to correct this situation, protests mounted against the bill and the sponsor, Assemblyman Joseph R. Younglove, hurriedly removed it. This having been pigeonholed, the affair was once again thrown back to where it started - in the local Church.

Court action, which had also been started in the Brooklyn Supreme Court, by the majority of the vestry was postponed indefinitely. The entire situation now hangs on the Annual Meeting of April 2nd - at this meeting, the membership will then elect the new vestry and matters will then reflect the true wishes of the congregation.

Pending the Court trial, the Annual Meeting, and the varied thrusts and counter-thrusts, the Rev. Melish continues holding Divine Services by mutual agreement between the opposing forces. The opposing forces are headed by the Bishop of the Diocese, The Rt. Rev. James P. DeWolfe, on the one hand; and by Rev. Melish and the congregation, on the other hand.

\* \* \* \* \*

AMI, Florida - Jack Coe, Texas 'Faith' healer, was haled to court for violation of the law for illegally practicing medicine. Altho the charges were dismissed by Justice Duval, he is expected he will again be arrested to face criminal charges on the same count. Mr. Coe, in one of his tent 'Faith healing' meetings, had caused a child to remove braces from the legs, which caused the child, a polio-victim, to suffer a set-back. In court it was shown that Mr. Coe heads three 'non-profit' corporations, which have a net value of \$500,000. Mr. Coe stated 'I am president, and my wife, my sister and my sister-in-law are the other officers.'

It was recently reported that another 'Faith Healer', Oral Roberts, was driven out of Australia by boos and catcalls. A question to be answered: If a healer accumulates a half million dollars from tent meetings, is he a channel for God or \$ ? - ED.

\* \* \* \* \*

ASHVILLE, Tenn. - Chancery Court here ruled that an office building, if used by a religious institution, may be built in a residential area, even though property owners there may object.

\* \* \* \* \*

# FABLES IN FACT!

## *Cannibalism in India*

By Taya Zinkin

Police in Uttar Pradesh searching for a missing five-year old boy have discovered a Hindu sect of man-eaters, the Aghori sadis whose origins go back to the fourth century.

These saintly anthropophagi believe that by eating the flesh and organs of young boys who have not yet been initiated into Hinduism they acquire merit and ward off evil spirits. They kidnap their victims, preferably from big religious Hindu fairs. These fairs have the twin advantage of ensuring that the boy is a Hindu and that there is always such a crush that anyone can easily be lost. Twenty-one such 'saints' living like beasts amid bones of their victims, have just been arrested, and from now on the Government will take preventive measures at fairs.

Last week a young man in South India sacrificed his mother to Shiva in a religious trance. Dragging his mother to the temple steps he decapitated her in front of an appreciative audience, which was struck with respect by his great devotion to the god. When police came to arrest him the crowd didn't like it at all.

What does all this mean? Not that India is going back to the days of suttee and human sacrifices, but rather the opposite: that Orthodoxy is rearing its ugly head in a fight for survival. In former days, the eating of little boys must have been a pet occupation of the saintly, and nobody minded. Only two heads have been cut as an offering to the gods during the past year, so far as I recall, and there has been only a suttee or two. (Manchester Guardian, Jan.12,1956 - sent in by a reader) - ED.



## "Altars of the East"

A SERIES OF UNIQUE AND AUTHENTIC FULL COLOR FILMS

### the world's great religions

Idols - Gods - Laws - Justice -  
Fear - Love - Worship - Faith -  
Prayer - Truth - Scripture -  
Religion - Prophets - Dance -  
Death - Deva - Monotheism -  
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Birth - Polygamy - Burial -  
Cremation - Destruction -  
Resurrection - Hate - War -  
Knowledge - Ignorance -  
Poverty - Wealth - Misery -  
Unhappiness - Beauty - Joy -  
Music - Monuments - Buildings -  
Tombs - Graves - Architecture -  
Vestments - Temples - Incense -  
Altars - Candles - Offerings -  
Yogi - Turmoil - Confusion -  
Chaos - Peace.

Words, terms and descriptions - with surprises galore. All these and many more, make up the theme of a most unusual and striking presentation of the travels of L. Ayres, actor of Hollywood. Mr. Ayres takes the view on a trip thru the Orient, India, the Near East and part of Palestine - done in color, explained dispassionately and educationally, the films consume some six hours of time, but the viewer leaves with a greater appreciation of how the majority of the people of earth live and worship. Every church-goer, who has a desire to know of life and people, should see these films. Some are better than others - some are better filmed and narrated; but, all are good.

The following is a list of the films:

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| WHEELS OF KARMA        | Hinduism (India)                 |
| THE SWORD AND THE BOOK | Sikhism (India)                  |
| GUARDIANS OF LIFE      | Jainism (India)                  |
| THE FLAME OF ZOROASTER | The Parsis (India)               |
| PATHWAY TO NIRVANA     | Buddhism (Hinayana) (Siam-Burma) |

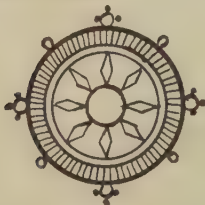
#### ALTARS, ANCESTORS AND INCENSE

1. Buddhism (Mahayana)
2. Confucianism
3. Taoism (Formosa and Hong Kong Territories)

#### THE SHRINE AND THE LOTUS

1. Buddhism (Mahayana)
2. Shinto (Japan)

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM ..... Judaism (Israel and U.S.)  
THE PILLARS OF ALLAH ..... Islam (Pakistan, Egypt and Turkey)



the wheel of law - Hinou -



# CHURCH BUDGETS and the INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY IN GIVING

Much has been written regarding what a person should give to the support of Church. Naturally, every sincere Church-goer desires to support the Church they attend. Question, however, in most individual's minds concerning the problems of operating the Church organization, is one which is rarely answered to their satisfaction.

Church financial problems usually revolve around the following main points:

- Ministerial support.
- Welfare and social activities.
- Office expenses(stationery, postage, publications, printing,etc.)
- Musical and choir.
- Building care and equipment(Public utilities, insurance, maintenance repairs, custodian services, etc.)
- Mortgage(if one exists) or further building expansion plans.
- Education (Sunday School supplies, youth activities, etc.)
- Liturgical (Flowers, candles, communion supplies,etc.)

Having thus presented the main stem of the Church financial expenditures , examine what should and can be done. As we all know, many members merely content themselves with dropping something discreetly in the Offering Box or Tray. Naturally, were to be done by all, there would be no possibility, without an endowment, of the Church opening the following Sunday.

This brings us,then, to the question of a Budget. With a budget, each individual member can become acquainted with the expenditures and needs of the Church. And, accordingly, can make a pledge in keeping with his or her means. To do this, the individual has to answer a series of questions:

- i.How many free hours do I devote to doing something for my Church ?
- ii.How many hours do I devote to attending movies, bars, social events, parties, sports,etc.?
- iii.How much money do I spend on these things ?
- iv.Are liquor, tobacco, or other recreational pursuits of more importance to me than my worship and finding of God ?

Every person can find his or her own answer to these type of questions, then he knows how he stands in relation to his Church. Either his Church is on equal par with his social and athletic interests, or it is not. Only the individual can determine this fact. No one can judge another as to his interests or abilities, one can only point out what appears to be a reasonable fact.

Now, the individual is faced with the problem of ascertaining = 'What has God ever done for me'? 'Have I truly been blessed in any fashion'? This is the test of one's faith and knowledge of God.

For an idea, if one determines he wishes to give, the following table has been prepared to guide in making plans for constructive giving. This table is approximate and yet gives to show what average devoted Church-goers actually do. In 1955, the average adult gave to the Church a minimum of \$1.00 a week. Some Churches had memberships that averaged as high as \$3.40 a week, per adult member.

| Your average Income<br>before Taxes is = |           | ....then, your SUGGESTED WEEKLY PLEDGE<br>should not be less than shown below = |         |                                     |        |        |        |
|--|-----------|---|---------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Per week:                                | Per Year: | If you are:   |         | If you have children or dependents: |        |        |        |
|  |           | Single  | Married | 1                                   | 2      | 3      | 4      |
| \$45                                     | \$2340    | \$1.80  | \$1.60  | \$1.40                              | \$1.20 | \$ .90 | \$ .50 |
| 55                                       | 2860      | 2.30  | 2.10    | 1.90                                | 1.60   | 1.30   | 1.00   |
| 65                                       | 3380      | 2.80  | 2.60    | 2.30                                | 2.00   | 1.70   | 1.40   |
| 75                                       | 3900      | 3.50  | 3.20    | 2.90                                | 2.60   | 2.30   | 2.00   |
| 90                                       | 4680      | 4.50  | 4.10    | 3.70                                | 3.40   | 3.00   | 2.70   |
| 105                                      | 5460      | 5.60  | 5.20    | 4.80                                | 4.30   | 3.80   | 3.40   |

# EASTERN BYZANTINE PAPER ICONS

|      |                         |      |                               |
|------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| #450 | Pentecost (C)           | #848 | S.Constantine & Helen (B)     |
| #497 | Nativity of Christ (C)  | #849 | Resurrection (B,C,D)          |
| #498 | Baptism of Christ (C)   | #850 | Holy Trinity (B,C,D)          |
| #500 | Ascension (C)           | #851 | Theotokos-Mercy (A,B,C,D)     |
| #581 | Holy Night (A)          | #852 | Theotokos-Athos (A,B,C,D)     |
| #832 | Jesus Christ (A,B,C,D)  | #853 | S.Peter & Paul (B,C)          |
| #835 | S.Nicholas (A,C,D)      | #856 | Theotokos-Kursk (B,C,D)       |
| #836 | Theotokos-Panagia (A,D) | #857 | Theotokos-Kazan (A,B,D)       |
| #839 | S.Michael(Russian) (A)  | #858 | Jesus Christ-Kazan (A,B,D)    |
| #840 | S.Panteleimon (A)       | #917 | Gethsemane (A,B,D)            |
| #841 | S.Demetrios (B)         | #818 | Gethsemane (A) (another view) |
| #842 | S.John Baptist (B,C)    | #933 | Good Shepherd (A,B)           |
| #843 | Holy Countenance (B,D)  | #934 | Knock & Open (A,B)            |
| #844 | Crucifixion (A,B,C,D)   | #966 | Lords Supper (A,B,C,D)        |
| #845 | Annunciation (B,C)      | #983 | S.Michael(Greek) (B,C)        |
| #847 | S.Stephen (A)           | #984 | S.George (B)                  |

All of the above subjects are available in full color, printed on paper. All are Icons. The letter enclosed in parenthesis after each subject indicates the sizes in which it is available. Sizes and prices are as follows:

|   |                | 1-24 copies | 25-99 copies | 100-250 copies | 251-1000 copies |
|---|----------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| A | - 13x17 inches | \$1.50 ea.  | \$1.20 ea.   | \$1.00 ea.     | .....           |
| B | - 8x10 ..      | .35¢ ea.    | .25¢ ea.     | .15¢ ea.       | .....           |
| C | - 4x5 ..       | .15¢ ea.    | .12½¢ ea.    | .10¢ ea.       | .07¢ ea.        |
| D | - 2x3 ..       | .10¢ ea.    | .07½¢ ea.    | .05¢ ea.       | .03¢ ea.        |

NOTE: The above prices, in quantity, may be taken by grouping all subjects desired of each size into a combined total and then figuring price accordingly. All shipments will be posted if money accompanies order; otherwise Postage and Fees will be charged.

## FIVE STIFF PAPER ICONS:

In addition to the above subjects, the following are available, also in full color =

|                        |              |   |
|------------------------|--------------|---|
| Jesus Christ (English) | 3½x5½ inches | (see price schedule for size 'C' above) |
| Holy Cross             | ..           | ..                                      |
| S.Nicholas             | 3½x4½ inches | ..                                      |
| Epitaph(Great Friday)  | 6x8 inches   | (see price schedule for size 'B' above) |
| St.George              | 2½x3½ inches | (see price schedule for size 'D' above) |

## SAMPLE SET:

A complete sample set, suitable for Church, Seminary, Teacher, Library - consisting of one of each of every size and subject listed above - some 74 Icons in all - may be had at a cost of \$20.00 postpaid, if check accompanies order.

A sample set of 20-2x3 inch, plastic covered, easel-backed Icons and religious pictures may be had for \$3.00 postpaid. Excellent for children as Sunday School awards.

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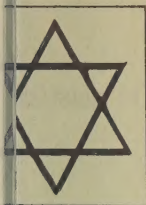
New York 23, N.Y.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - When a furnace-wrecking crew asked the custodian of St.Andrew Episcopal Church for the keys to remove the worn-out old heater, he gave them without question as the church had been talking of replacing it.

Later, surprised vestrymen discovered the loss and phoned the police. A newspaper story told of the 'theft'. The wrecking company then informed the church they had made an error by going to the wrong address. They tendered a check to help pay for a new furnace. Said a vestryman: 'God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform'.



Following reasons to this question have been stated in concise answer form by many different sources. The religious groups themselves, however, give these:



#### JUDAISM -

The National Broadcasting Corporation carried a Sunday program, known as 'The Eternal Light'. The Jewish Theological Seminary is the responsible group behind this program. They give these reasons for broadcasting:

To extol all who sanctify God's name.

To emphasize the sanctity of the human personality.

To demonstrate the fundamental character of the democratic impulse

in a good society.

To define the place of the Land of Israel in Jewish religious aspiration.

To introduce, elucidate and interpret Jewish ritual, ceremonial and folk-lore.

#### TESTANTANTS -

The National Council of Churches, in the By-laws of the Broadcasting Film Commission, declares its purposes to be:

To conduct work in media of mass communication, such as radio or films, and recordings - on behalf of the National Council and its constituent communions, in order to further the promulgation of the Gospel of Christ thru these media.

To provide a balanced presentation of the major functions of Church in evangelism, teaching, service and world mission endeavor.



#### ROMAN CATHOLICISM -

In the 'Production of Religious Radio Programs', a publication of the National Council of Catholic Men, the following reasons are given:

To make the Roman Catholic Faith better known and understood.

To beam each program, especially to the non-Catholic.

To give the listener some orientation as to the course of his life.

To show how the Roman Catholic Church can help people.

To give the Roman Catholic attitude on the problems of life.

To confirm the Roman Catholic Faith in every program.

To lead the non-Catholic to a ready and willing acceptance of the Roman Catholic message.

#### ATERN ORTHODOX -

Here, only scattered information is available. No concerted action or planned programming is anywhere apparent. No public relations pieces

have been given out in general, as far as the whole Faith is concerned.

A few local Radio Programs are broadcast by GOYA or local Church communities.



**NEW YORK -** Let us examine what one religious group did in 1955, and what they are planning for 1956, in cooperation with others of their own communion.

In 1955, the United Lutheran Church spent \$30,000 on production costs for the United Lutheran Radio Series. Over 4100 Hours of Radio-TV air time were used, with nearly 300 Radio Stations participating.

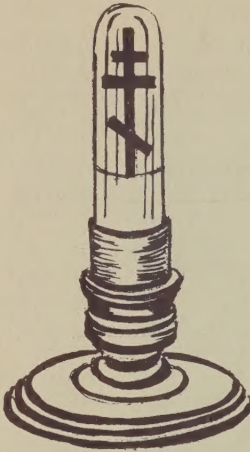
In 1956, the same Church, by itself, is planning an eleven week series of 60 Programs, to be carried over 300 Stations, from June 24th thru Sept. 2nd. It will also be carried over the Armed Forces Radio Network. The themes have been chosen for vacation listening, and will feature music, a choir with the Psalms, and a 14 minute meditation. On Color TV, four cooperating Lutheran bodies will engage in producing 6 live one-hour dramas, to be presented over 170 TV Stations as a part of NBC's 'Matinee Theatre'.

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